

Approved: May 8, 2012

**Rockville Environment Commission
Minutes of the Meeting of Tuesday, April 10, 2012
Held at the Rockville City Hall, 111 Maryland Avenue**

Attendance

Commissioners Present: John Becker, Julie Palakovich Carr, Kris Dighe (by phone), Devinie Lye and Clark Reed

Commissioners Absent: Steve Cardon, Anne Goodman, Alicia Hosmer, and Beri Kravitz

Guests: Mark Charles, Environmental Management
Melissa Michel – Interested Non-Resident

Meeting Commencement

The meeting convened at 7:37 pm by Acting Chair Palakovich Carr.

Commissioner Vacancy

Acting Chair Palakovich Carr informed the Commission that Commissioner Anne Goodman has submitted her resignation with 17 months remaining on her term (September 1, 2013). The City Clerk's office has been notified and a search for a new commissioner is underway. Residents interested in serving on the Commission should file an expression of interest form with the Clerk's office.

Stream Clean-up Scheduled

Acting Chair Palakovich Carr announced that the Commission will be sponsoring a stream clean up event for its adopted stream (Maryvale Creek) on Saturday, April 14 from 10-12 am. Councilmember Pierzchala intends to participate and Channel 11 will film the event.

Approval of the Meeting Minutes

Approval of the March 13, 2012 meeting minutes was moved by Lye and seconded by Becker with no corrections. The motion passed 5-0-0.

Chapter 5 Green Building Ordinance Revisions

The Commission reviewed the proposed changes to City Code Chapter 5 and offered no further revisions. Becker moved and Dighe seconded an endorsement indicating the Staff should pursue adoption by the Mayor and Council. The motion passed 5-0-0. The next step is to introduce the proposal on April 16, with a public hearing to follow on May 14.

Sustainable Maryland Certified

The Commission was briefed on the final *Sustainable Maryland* application and the group offered no further revisions. Palakovich Carr moved and Lye seconded an endorsement of the application and support for the City staff to submit it to the Maryland Municipal League and the University of Maryland. The motion passed 5-0-0. The application was subsequently submitted and Rockville was the second Maryland municipality to do so.

High Performance Building Tax Credit

Mark Charles briefed the Commission on the status on the tax credit proposal. The ordinance was introduced at the January 23 Mayor and Council meeting. The Mayor and Council held a public hearing on March 5, 2012. The comment period closed on March 9 with 7 commenters. A Discussion and Instruction session was held on March 26 and Adoption took place on April 30, 2012.

Environmental Excellence Awards

Award Ceremony Postponed

The Awards Ceremony, originally scheduled for April 30 is postponed until **Monday, May 14**. All Commissioners are invited to attend.

Montgomery College Science Center Tour

Commissioners Clark, Dighe and Lye described the Commission's March 27 tour of the College Science Center. Commissioner Cardon also attended the tour. Commissioner Clark expressed an interest in reviewing the LEED points in the Building's certification application and possibly seeing the savings reflected in energy bills. Those Commissioners who participated in the tour recommend that an Environmental Excellence Award be give favorable consideration by other Commissioners.

Award Criteria

Commissioner Becker continues to develop a draft proposal describing specific award criteria and the nomination and presentation processes. The proposal will be taken up at the May meeting.

Hometown Holidays Preparations

The Commission reviewed its available budget, including up to \$700 offered by the Recreation and Parks Department and determined they could afford to rent the award-winning film "*Your Environmental Road Trip*." Sufficient funding is also available to invite the filmmaker to attend several screenings and discuss the film. The film is approximately 113 minutes. A special VIP screening could be offered Friday, May 25 at City Hall; and the film should have two public screenings on Saturday, May 26 at the Rockville Public Library. The library will also charge a room rental for the use of its conference room. Promotion will occur on Rockville's web page, the Hometown Holiday's schedule of events and through posters placed around town by Commissioners. Commissioner Clark moved and Lye seconded the adoption of this proposal as a package. The motion passed 5-0-0.

The following Commissioners indicate that they are available to staff a booth on Saturday, May 26: Dighe, Becker, Lye, Palakovich Carr, Cardon, and Kravitz. The Committee volunteers will also be approached about their availability and interest.

Commissioner Becker is trying to arrange for a portable solar collector to power the rain barrel pump as part of the demonstration /booth.

Environmental Management Report

Mark Charles reported that the prize wheel had been purchased and would be used by City Staff at Spring Fest on April 28.

Mark Charles reminded Commissioners of various Earth Day related events and discussed stormwater legislation that passed in the General Assembly in the final hours of the session.

There was also a reminder that the next Multi-City Meeting is scheduled for April 24 in Hyattsville. Commissioners Becker, Dighe, Lye and Palakovich Carr are planning to attend.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 9:05 pm by unanimous acclamation.

Next Commission Meeting

The next Commission meeting is *tentatively* scheduled for **Tuesday, May 8, 2012 at 7:30 pm** in the **Diamondback Conference Room** of the **Rockville City Hall, 111 Maryland Avenue**, Rockville, Maryland, 20850. The public is invited to attend.